

## Message Text

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2510

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1736

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION -- MEETING WITH HSIAO TE  
H

REF: A) STATE 219498 B) STATE 206330 C) STATE 207836  
D) PEKING 1733

1. NGA CATALOGUE. USLO ACTING CHIEF CALLED ON HSIAO TEH OCTOBER 7 TO IMPRESS UPON CHINESE NEED FOR QUICK REVIEW OF NGA CATALOGUE. HE EMPHASIZED GREAT LENGTHS NGA HAD GONE TO AVOID CONTROVERSY-DETAILING CONTENTS AS GIVEN IN REF B AND THE PRINTING DEADLINE GIVEN REF A. HE ASKED CHINESE TO GIVE US THEIR CONCURRENCE BY WEDNESDAY (OCT 9) OR THURSDAY AT THE LATEST. HSIAO REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD URGENCY AND HAD GIVEN THE DUMMIES TO THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED FOR REVIEW, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE THEY COULD FINISH THEIR REVIEW BY WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY. HE SAID THE CHINESE "IN PRINCIPLE" HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH NGA PRINTING ANY MATERIAL WHICH USED TEXT THEY PROVIDED. THEY DID, HOWEVER, WANT TO REVIEW THE JOINT FOREWORD BY THE MUSEUM DIRECTORS. HOLDRIDGE LATER TWICE RETURNED TO NEED FOR QUICK ACTION ON REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS AND HSIAO INDICATED HE WOULD TRY TO MEET OUR DEADLINE.

2. GRAPHIC MATERIALS. HOLDRIDGE THEN RAISED ONCE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF GRAPHIC MATERIALS FOR THE NGA. (WE HAD ASKED FOR INFO AS INSTRUCTED REF C IN NOTE TO MFA DATED SEPTEMBER 23.) HSIAO REPLIED THAT THESE MATERIALS WERE NOW IN TORONTO AND WE  
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SHOULD ASK FOR THEM THERE. HE SAID THE MFA WOULD NOTIFY

THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA TO TURN IT OVER TO US RIGHT AWAY. CONTRADICTING INFO REF C, HSIAO SAID THAT THE GRAPHICS PACKAGE DID INCLUDE NEGATIVES OR AT LEAST IT DID WHEN IT LEFT PEKING FOR VIENNA. US REPRESENTATIVES COULD PICK UP ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY GOING TO TORONTO.

3. FILMS. HSIAO SAID THAT MFA WOULD BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE USLO CONTACT WITH CHINA FILM DISTRIBUTION AND EXHIBITION CORPORATION TO SEE WHAT OTHER FILMS RELATED TO THE EXHIBITION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. (NOTE: WE WANT TO TAKE HSIAO UP ON THIS SINCE EARLIER USLO ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE FILM CORPORATION HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING.) PLEASE PROVIDE AS MANY SPECIFICS AS POSSIBLE (CONTENT, LENGTH, FUNDS AVAILABLE, ETC) TO GUIDE US IN DISCUSSION NGA NEEDS WITH THE FILM CORPORATION.

4. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. HSIAO NOTED THAT THE TIME WAS NOW GETTING VERY SHORT (ONLY THIRTY DAYS UNTIL THE EXHIBITION CLOSED IN TORONTO) AND MANY PREPARATIONS HAD TO BE MADE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO PROVIDE SOME LEGAL BASIS FOR THESE PREPARATIONS. HOLDRIDGE ANSWERED THAT THE DELAY WAS CAUSED BY CHANGES THE CHINESE HAD HELD OUT FOR IN THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE FORCE MAJUERE CLAUSE. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED THE COMPENSATION ISSUE WITH CONGRESS ON THE BASIS OF THE WORDING OF THIS PORTION IN THE VERSION OF THE DOCUMENT ORIGINALLY PROVIDED. IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS CHINESE CHANGES WITH CONGRESS AND THIS TOOK TIME.

5. COMMENT: HSIAO LOOKED DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. WE SUSPECT WE WILL HEAR SOMETHING ON THE NGA CATALOGUE FAIRLY QUICKLY. HOLDRIDGE

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